United States District Court

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VENUE: SAN FRANCISCO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

IFORNIA WHO

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CR 14

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FEDEX CORPORATION, FEDEX EXPRESS, INC., and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.,

DEFENDANT(S).

INDICTMENT

VIOLATIONS:

21 U.S.C. § 846 – Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances; 21 U.S.C. § 841 – Distribution of Controlled Substances; 18 U.S.C. § 371 – Conspiracy to Distribute Misbranded Drugs; 21 U.S.C. §§ 331, 333, and 353 – Misbranding Drugs; 18 U.S.C. § 982; 21 U.S.C. § 853 and 28 U.S.C. § 2461 – Forfeiture

MELINDA HAAG (CABN 132612) 1 United States Attorney 2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 WHO NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION 10 380 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 11 VIOLATIONS: 21 U.S.C. § 846 - Conspiracy to Plaintiff, 12 Distribute Controlled Substances; 21 U.S.C. § 841 - Distribution of Controlled 13 v. Substances; 18 U.S.C. § 371 – Conspiracy to Distribute FEDEX CORPORATION, 14 Misbranded Drugs; FEDEX EXPRESS, INC., and 21 U.S.C. §§ 331, 333, and 353 – Misbranding Drugs; FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC., 18 U.S.C. § 982; 21 U.S.C. § 853 and 28 U.S.C. 15 § 2461 – Forfeiture Defendants. 16 SAN FRANCISCO VENUE 17 18 19 INDICTMENT 20 The Grand Jury charges: 21 INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS 22 At all times relevant to this indictment: 23 **Defendants** 24 Defendants FEDEX CORPORATION, FEDEX EXPRESS, INC. ("FEDEX EXPRESS"), 1. 25 and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC. ("FEDEX SERVICES") (collectively, "FEDEX"), were 26 package delivery companies and providers of specialized transportation and logistics services that 27 delivered packages to persons located in the Northern District of California and throughout the United 28

INDICTMENT

States. FEDEX EXPRESS and FEDEX SERVICES were wholly owned subsidiaries of FEDEX CORPORATION.

Summary of Alleged Conduct

A. <u>Illegal Internet Pharmacies</u>

- 2. Beginning in approximately 1998, numerous companies began offering consumers prescription drugs, including controlled substances, based on the provision of information over the Internet. These companies came to be known as Internet or online pharmacies, both terms used interchangeably throughout this indictment. Some Internet pharmacies were managed by well-known pharmacy chains that required valid prescriptions and visits to the patient's personal physician before an order was filled. Others failed to require a prescription before filling orders for any drugs, and distributed controlled substances and prescription drugs based solely on the completion of an online questionnaire, without a physical examination, diagnosis, or face-to-face meeting with a physician. Such practices violated federal and state laws governing the distribution of prescription drugs and controlled substances.
- 3. Internet pharmacies generally operated websites that advertised the sale of various controlled substances and prescription drugs. Through the websites, customers typically placed orders for drugs by answering an online questionnaire calling for basic information such as height, weight and date of birth, making payment arrangements, and providing a shipping address. Internet pharmacies worked with fulfillment pharmacies that carried an inventory of controlled substances and prescription drugs. After filling the order referred by the Internet pharmacy, the fulfillment pharmacy delivered the drugs to the customer by a shipper such as FEDEX.
- 4. From at least as early as 2004, on no less than six different occasions, the DEA, FDA, or members of Congress and their staff informed FEDEX that illegal Internet pharmacies were using its shipping services to distribute controlled substances and prescription drugs in violation of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FDCA). These government officials informed senior FEDEX management that a prescription based solely on a customer's completion of an online questionnaire was invalid and that controlled substances and prescription drugs dispensed based on such an invalid prescription were distributed in violation of the CSA, FDCA, and numerous state laws. The

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27 28 government officials similarly informed FEDEX that doctors writing such prescriptions and pharmacists filling them were acting outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose, according to guidelines published by the American Medical Association (AMA), Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), and National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP).

The Chhabra-Smoley Organization and Superior Drugs B.

- During the time covered by this indictment, FEDEX shipped controlled substances and 5. prescription drugs for two illegal Internet pharmacy organizations, among others: (1) the Chhabra-Smoley Organization, which operated a network of illegal Internet and fulfillment pharmacies through its principals Vincent Chhabra and Robert Smoley, and (2) Superior Drugs, which was an illegal fulfillment pharmacy that filled drug orders for illegal Internet pharmacies. FEDEX knew that the Chhabra-Smoley Organization and Superior Drugs were each distributing controlled substances and prescription drugs based solely on a customer's completion of an online questionnaire, and that these organizations were distributing drugs outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose in violation of the law. Nevertheless, FEDEX continued to ship controlled substances and prescription drugs for the Chhabra-Smoley Organization and Superior Drugs.
- In 2003, the DEA shut down RxNetwork, the Chhabra-Smoley Organization's primary 6. fulfillment pharmacy, and Chhabra was arrested for violating the CSA. FedEx learned of these events promptly after they occurred, but FEDEX continued to distribute controlled substances and prescription drugs for the Chhabra-Smoley Organization through Internet and fulfillment pharmacies that were controlled by and affiliated with Smoley and other members of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization. FEDEX knew of the connection between these Internet and fulfillment pharmacies and RxNetwork and Chhabra as demonstrated by the principals, company names, shipping addresses and billing addresses that were initially connected to Chhabra and RxNetwork and remained common to Smoley and the members of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization who continued operations after Chhabra's arrest. FEDEX's employees explicitly recognized this connection. For example, in a discussion with FEDEX managers in the Sales and Revenue Operations departments, one employee stated that the controller for Smoley's Internet pharmacy Icom had two other Internet pharmacy accounts: RxNetwork and Dipardi Pharmacy, another fulfillment pharmacy used by Chhabra prior to his arrest.

7. In addition to knowing that Superior Drugs illegally distributed controlled substances and prescription drugs based on an online questionnaire, FEDEX knew that Superior Drugs filled orders for Internet pharmacies that were shut down by the DEA or other law enforcement agencies. FEDEX further knew Superior Drugs would fill orders for Internet pharmacies after a fulfillment pharmacy they had been using was shut down by law enforcement. Despite this knowledge, FEDEX continued to distribute controlled substances and prescription drugs for Superior Drugs. For example, when the DEA closed the Waterview fulfillment pharmacy in Maryland, employees in FEDEX's Sales department discussed the fact that CNL Financial, an Internet pharmacy that had used Waterview, had transferred its orders to Superior Drugs. FEDEX continued to ship controlled substances and prescription drugs for CNL Financial from Superior Drugs.

C. FEDEX's Internet Pharmacy Policies

- By 2004, illegal Internet pharmacies increasingly were being investigated and closed by DEA and other law enforcement and government agencies, which in turn affected FEDEX's revenue. During this time, Internet pharmacy customers were increasingly causing safety issues for FEDEX drivers in their efforts to secure the controlled substances and prescription drugs they had ordered online. In response to these issues, FEDX enacted policies and procedures that allowed FEDEX to continue to ship controlled substances and prescription drugs for illegal Internet pharmacies while protecting against lost revenue and addressing its employees' compensation and safety issues.
 - i. FEDEX's Online Pharmacy Credit Policy
- 9. In virtually all cases, when law enforcement closed an illegal Internet pharmacy, FEDEX was unable to collect outstanding accounts payable from that customer. To address this issue, beginning in June 2004, FEDEX established an Online Pharmacy Credit Policy that applied only to its Internet pharmacy shippers. Under this policy, all Internet pharmacy shippers had to be approved by the Credit Department prior to opening a new account. Existing Internet pharmacies had to be reviewed by the Credit Department to ensure that they had adequate financial security. In arguing for the Online Pharmacy Credit Policy, FEDEX's Managing Director of Revenue Operations stated "[a]s the past few weeks have unfolded it is becoming more apparent to us that many of these companies are fraudulent and doing business outside Federal regulations." After receiving this e-mail, FEDEX's Vice President

of Worldwide Revenue Operations approved FEDEX's continued shipment of drugs pursuant to the proposed Online Pharmacy Credit Policy. The policy was also approved by FEDEX EXPRESS's Chief Financial Officer and FEDEX SERVICES' President of Customer Information Services and Senior Vice President of Sales.

- 10. By 2006, FEDEX had strengthened the Online Pharmacy Credit Policy to require that all online pharmacies be placed on restricted credit terms and provide FEDEX with a security deposit or bank letter of credit. On July 6, 2006, the Credit Policy was circulated to FedEx's Managing Directors of Sales with the following explanation for "Why this is important": "Many of these companies operate outside federal and state regulations over the sale of controlled drugs, which require diagnosis and prescription by a licensed physician. Drugs purchased from these sites may be diluted or counterfeit. Several sites have been shut down by the government without warning or simply disappeared leaving large balances owing to FEDEX."
- 11. Beginning in 2004, FEDEX's Credit analysts maintained a list of FEDEX's online pharmacy customers that was regularly reviewed by FEDEX's Senior Manager and Managing Director of Revenue Operations. As of July 2004, FEDEX employees had identified over 200 accounts that were associated with online pharmacies. By September of 2010, the list had increased to over 600 online pharmacy accounts.
 - ii. FEDEX's Use of its "Catchall" Classification for Internet Pharmacies
- 12. FEDEX maintained a Field Sales Department that was responsible for recruiting new customers for FEDEX with potential revenue of up to approximately \$1 million. Within Field Sales, each employee was assigned a fiscal-year sales goal, which was a factor in FEDEX's Variable Compensation Plan. A Sales employee's goal was determined, in part, by the Sales employee's previous year sales. Each year, FEDEX's Sales employees were expected to increase the revenue in their territory. Any customers that were lost were expected to be replaced with new customers with an equal amount of revenue, so that the Sales employee could meet his or her goal for the year.
- 13. Beginning in 2004, Sales employees began to experience revenue losses due to the closure of online pharmacies by law enforcement. At the end of 2005, FEDEX's Sales Department began looking for a streamlined way to address the impact on the Field Sales executives' compensation

caused by Internet pharmacy accounts quickly opening, shipping large amounts of express packages, and then being shut down by law enforcement.

14. FEDEX maintained a shipping account classification known as "catchall." Catchall

- 14. FEDEX maintained a shipping account classification known as "catchall." Catchall accounts were not assigned to specific account executives and did not affect the yearly sales goals of account executives or their managers. In 2006, a group of FEDEX's Sales employees proposed that all online pharmacy accounts be assigned to the catchall classification because, as one Managing Director stated to the Vice President of Field Sales for the Eastern Region, "I can assure you that these types of accounts will always result in a loss at some point. They have a very short lifespan and will eventually be shut down by the DEA."
- 15. On March 29, 2007, a Senior Sales Analyst sent an e-mail to Sales employees informing them that any currently known online pharmacy accounts were to be moved to the "catchall" classification pursuant to an agreement between the Field Sales Vice Presidents. The stated reason for this policy was, "The internet pharmacy industry is governed by strict DEA laws. This type of business is generally very volatile in nature (i.e., here one day and gone the next). There are often numerous large volume shifts associated with internet pharmacies as they move the shipping location often to avoid detection from the DEA."
 - iii. FEDEX's Holding of Shipments for Internet Pharmacy Customers
- 16. As early as 2004, FEDEX couriers and customer service agents in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia expressed safety concerns to their management, including the following: FEDEX trucks had been stopped on the road by Internet pharmacy customers demanding packages of pills; delivery addresses included parking lots, schools, and vacant homes where people would wait for deliveries of drugs; customers would jump on FEDEX trucks and demand Internet pharmacy packages; FEDEX drivers were threatened if they insisted on delivering a package to the address instead of giving the package to the customer who demanded it; and customers would use multiple names and identification documents to pick up packages of drugs.
- 17. A FEDEX employee also raised concerns to FEDEX management that some recipients of Internet pharmacy packages were engaged in "doctor shopping," were "known to be selling and using," and that "some of the recipients have overdosed and died."

18. In response to these concerns, FEDEX's Senior Vice President of Security approved a procedure whereby Internet pharmacy packages from problematic shippers were held for pick up at specific stations, rather than delivered to the recipient's address. This policy was eventually expanded to include all Internet pharmacy packages delivered to the stations that were experiencing concerns.

COUNT ONE: (21 U.S.C. § 846 – Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances)

- 19. Paragraphs 1 through 18 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.
- 20. Beginning at a time unknown to the grand jury, but no later than January of 2000, and ending on or about February 20, 2008, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

FEDEX CORPORATION; FEDEX EXPRESS, INC.; and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.,

Services, Icom Group, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, conspired to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose one or more controlled substances, knowing and intending that the distribution and possession with intent to distribute was outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose, which offense involved substances containing: (a) Phendimetrazine, a Schedule III controlled substance; (b) Ambien, a Schedule IV controlled substance; (c) Phentermine, a Schedule IV controlled substance; (d) Diethylpropion, a Schedule IV controlled substance; (e) Diazepam, a Schedule IV controlled substance; (f) Alprazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance; (g) Clonazepam, a Schedule IV controlled substance; and (h) Butalbital, a Schedule III controlled substance; (g) Clonazepam, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(D) and (b)(2), all of which conduct was in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

It was part of the conspiracy that:

- A. Operation of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization
 - 21. Unindicted co-conspirators Vincent Chhabra and Robert Smoley owned, operated and

managed a widespread organization of Internet pharmacy websites, fulfillment pharmacies, and support systems for the purpose of providing controlled substances directly to consumers without valid prescriptions (the "Chhabra-Smoley Organization").

- 22. The Chhabra-Smoley Organization consisted of websites with which Chhabra and Smoley were affiliated, including get-it-on.com, cybrx.com, USAPrescription.com, myrxeasy.com, ezrxovernight.com, fastplanetrx.com, ezmedsonline.com, and others, which offered for sale controlled substances on Schedules III and IV, by means of the Internet, to customers who were only required to complete an online questionnaire and were not examined, diagnosed, or contacted by the physicians who issued the prescriptions in connection with their orders.
- 23. The Chhabra-Smoley Organization also included physicians whom Chhabra and Smoley partnered with, recruited, and hired to review the customers' online questionnaires and to issue prescriptions for controlled substances based solely upon the customers' responses.
- 24. The Chhabra-Smoley Organization also included fulfillment pharmacies that Chhabra and Smoley owned, operated, partnered with, and recruited throughout the United States, including RxNetwork, Next Generation Health Systems, Prescriptions & Travel, Prescription Resources, Lakeridge Pharmacy, C&V Pharmacy, 2U Net-Mail (Choice Rx), Rx Direct, Dipardi Pharmacy, Falks Lignell (Falk's Home Medical Supply), United Mail Pharmacy Services, United Care Pharmacy, Kwic Fill, and Tri-Phasic Pharmacy, among others, to fill invalid prescriptions for controlled substances and to ship those controlled substances to customers in the Northern District of California and elsewhere in the United States.
- 25. The Chhabra-Smoley Organization also included employees and associates whom Chhabra and Smoley hired to call, respond to calls, and send e-mails to existing and prospective customers in the Northern District of California and elsewhere in the United States to solicit orders for controlled substances and refills of invalid prescriptions for controlled substances.
- 26. Chhabra and Smoley arranged for the continuation of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization following Chhabra's December 3, 2003, arrest on charges of violating the CSA, by entering into an arrangement whereby Smoley assumed responsibility for the running of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization.

B. FEDEX's Shipment of Illegal Drugs for the Chhabra-Smoley Organization

- 27. FEDEX employees including those who (a) negotiated and entered into the written agreements with the Chhabra-Smoley Organization on behalf of FEDEX, (b) managed the Chhabra-Smoley Organization accounts for FEDEX, and (c) maintained the Chhabra-Smoley Organization's business relationship with FEDEX, including its credit and payment terms knew that the Chhabra-Smoley Organization was distributing controlled substances based on prescriptions issued by doctors after reviewing customers' responses to an online questionnaire.
- 28. Chhabra and Smoley and their employees and associates entered into agreements with FEDEX in which FEDEX agreed to ship packages for the Chhabra-Smoley Organization. As part of these agreements, FEDEX opened over 30 accounts for the Chhabra-Smoley Organization, which the Chhabra-Smoley Organization used to illegally distribute controlled substances into the Northern District of California and elsewhere in the United States.
- 29. FEDEX's employees communicated on a regular basis with Chhabra, Smoley, and other employees of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization in writing, by telephone, and in person regarding the Chhabra-Smoley Organization's business trends, volume, and shipping and logistics needs.
- 30. FEDEX employees visited the premises of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization, including its headquarters and the locations of its fulfillment pharmacies. These employees observed the Chhabra-Smoley Organization's operations, including the taking of orders for controlled substances over the telephone and Internet and the filling of orders for controlled substances.
- 31. FEDEX employees observed packages from the Chhabra-Smoley Organization containing pill bottles filled with controlled substances; FEDEX employees assisted with preparing these packages for shipment and subsequently distributed these packages for the Chhabra-Smoley Organization in the Northern District of California and throughout the United States.
- 32. FEDEX employees and their contractors communicated with employees of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization on a regular basis regarding lost, stolen, or delayed FEDEX shipments of controlled substances.
- 33. FEDEX employees knew that online pharmacies and fulfillment pharmacies affiliated with the Chhabra-Smoley Organization were closed down by state and federal law enforcement

agencies, including the FDA and DEA, and that their owners, operators, pharmacists, and doctors were indicted, arrested, and convicted of violating the CSA, including:

- a. On July 23, 2002, a FEDEX employee placed a note in FEDEX's electronic account record for Rx Network, "Co has had its license suspended by the state of Florida in an emergency order that said the pharmacy constitutes 'an immediate and serious danger."
- b. On November 12, 2003, a FEDEX employee received an e-mail in which she was "advised Rx Network license was suspended for selling illegal prescriptions thru the internet I forward email to [the Sales] A/E advised cust has to increase weekly pmt to 150,000 to ensure shipping privileges."
- c. On January 30, 2004, a Sales executive informed his co-worker that he should not be responsible for increasing business from the Prescription Resources account, a fulfillment pharmacy for the Chhabra-Smoley Organization, because "State/Fed law closed this facility down about two months ago. It continues to pop up at various places in the country, one step ahead of state regulators, I believe."
- d. In June 2004, FEDEX's Senior Manager of Revenue Operations learned that Chhabra had been indicted for his involvement with Internet drug sales. He further learned that three doctors and two pharmacists involved in the Chhabra-Smoley Organization had pleaded guilty to drug trafficking based on "illegally selling excessive quantities of controlled substances diet pills through websites by simply having customers fill out online questionnaires without anyone checking the accuracy of the questionnaires."
- e. On March 17, 2006, FEDEX's Managing Director of Sales for the Gulf States
 Region approved a goal adjustment for the Sales executive responsible for one of
 Smoley's accounts based on the reason "FDA forced closure of primary supplier
 for Internet pharmacy. Unable to supply customers with product."

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- 34. In each instance, with the knowledge that these and other members of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization had been subject to law enforcement action for illegally shipping controlled substances, FEDEX continued to deliver controlled substances for the Chhabra-Smoley Organization.
- 35. FEDEX employees knew that the purpose of the Chhabra-Smoley Organization was to provide controlled substances to consumers without the need for a face-to-face meeting with, or physical examination, laboratory tests, or diagnosis, by a physician. FEDEX employees knew that this practice violated the CSA, FDCA, and numerous state laws. FEDEX employees knew that the practice of prescribing medication based solely on a physician's review of an online questionnaire, without a physical examination, laboratory tests, or face-to-face meeting was not in accordance with the usual course of medical and pharmacy practice according to the positions of the AMA, FSMB, NABP, and numerous state laws. FEDEX employees further knew that the Chhabra-Smoley Organization distributed controlled substances to customers who had no legitimate medical need for them.
- 36. FEDEX departed from its usual business practices to participate in and facilitate the Chhabra-Smoley Organization's unlawful sale of controlled substances. According to FEDEX's Service Guide and Tariff, as well as the understanding of its employees, FEDEX did not ship contraband, including illegal drugs, in the usual course of business. FEDEX also deviated from its usual course of business by applying its Online Pharmacy Credit Policy to the Chhabra-Smoley Organization. FEDEX further deviated from its usual course of business by placing assigning accounts associated with the Chhabra-Smoley Organization to the catchall classification for purposes of determining compensation for its sales executives, pursuant to FEDEX's Online Pharmacy Catchall Policy.

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

COUNTS TWO THROUGH TEN: (21 U.S.C. § 841 – Distribution of Controlled Substances)

- 37. Paragraphs 1 through 18 and 21 through 36 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.
- 38. On or about the dates listed below, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

FEDEX CORPORATION; FEDEX EXPRESS, INC.; and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.,

did possess with intent to distribute and distribute outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose one or more controlled substances, knowing and intending that the distribution and possession with intent to distribute was outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose, which offense involved substances containing those listed below:

COUNT	DATE	TRACKING NUMBER	CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
2	7/19/2007	799181999045	Diethylpropion
3	7/24/2007	799681810394	Phentermine
4	7/24/2007	792529082334	Phentermine
5	7/25/2007	798227118185	Phentermine
6	7/25/2007	790791710858	Phentermine
7	7/26/2007	798726973512	Adipex
8	7/26/2007	790792659716	Phentermine
9	7/27/2007	790792659841	Diazepam
10	7/27/2007	790301123749	Phentermine

Each in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(D) and/or (b)(2).

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COUNT ELEVEN: (18 U.S.C. § 371 – Conspiracy to Distribute Misbranded Drugs in Interstate Commerce)

- 39. Paragraphs 1 through 18 and 21 through 36 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.
- 40. Beginning at a time unknown to the grand jury, but no later than January of 2000, and ending on or about February 20, 2008, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

FEDEX CORPORATION; FEDEX EXPRESS, INC.; and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.,

together with Vincent Chhabra, Sabina Faruqui, Robert Smoley, RxNetwork, United Mail Pharmacy Services, Icom Group, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, conspired to distribute and dispense prescription drugs to consumers in various locations throughout the United States, including the Northern District of California, without valid prescriptions from licensed practitioners, which caused the drugs to be misbranded while held for sale after their shipment in interstate commerce, and did so with the intent to defraud and mislead as to a material matter, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 331(k), 333(a)(1), (a)(2), and 353(b), all of which conduct was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

It was part of the conspiracy that:

- 41. Paragraphs 1 through 18 and 21 through 36 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.
- 42. It is further alleged that each and every aspect of the conduct alleged in paragraphs 21 through 36 as the manner and means of the conspiracy involving controlled prescription drugs also involved non-controlled prescription drugs.
 - 43. The prescription drugs were distributed with the intent to defraud and mislead in that:
 - a. The Chhabra-Smoley Organization and its related online and fulfillment pharmacies falsely and fraudulently represented to consumers and government agencies that physicians had written valid prescriptions for the drugs they were

distributing.

- b. The Chhabra-Smoley Organization falsely and fraudulently represented to consumers and government agencies that no prescription was required to obtain the controlled and non-controlled prescription drugs advertised on its websites and that the "prescription" issued by a doctor employed by the online pharmacy based solely on his or her review of the responses to an online questionnaire was valid and in accordance with federal and state law.
- c. The Chhabra-Smoley Organization and its associated fulfillment pharmacies and pharmacists falsely and fraudulently represented to consumers and government agencies that the prescription drugs were dispensed pursuant to valid prescriptions after review by a pharmacist in accordance with federal and state law.
- d. The Chhabra-Smoley Organization falsely and fraudulently represented to customers who sought to obtain prescription drugs, but who lacked prescriptions from their personal physicians, and to government agencies, that the websites were a legitimate, lawful, safe, and responsible source for these drugs.

Overt Acts

- 44. On or about April 26, 2000, FEDEX delivered 30 pills of Meridia, a controlled prescription drug, from ChoiceRx, 14300 Justice Road, Ste. B, Midlothian, Virginia, that had been ordered by FDA agents in Maryland on or about April 7, 2000, from privacyrx.com by completing an online questionnaire.
- 45. On or about February 7, 2001, FEDEX delivered 30 pills of Phentermine, a controlled prescription drug, from Rx Network of Florida, 5400 S University Dr., Ste. 104, Davie, Florida, that had been ordered by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) on or about February 6, 2001, from eprescribe.com by completing an online questionnaire.
- 46. On or about December 3, 2001, FEDEX delivered 10 pills of Viagra, a prescription drug, from United Mail Pharmacy Services, 800 E Hallandale, Hallandale, Florida, that had been ordered by the FSMB on or about November 30, 2001, from viagraovernight.com by completing an online questionnaire.

- 47. On or about June 28, 2002, FEDEX delivered 30 pills of Phentermine, a controlled prescription drug, from Rx Network, 5400 S University Dr., Ste. 107, Davie, Florida, that had been ordered by agents with the Arkansas Attorney General on or about June 27, 2002, from USAPrescription.com by completing an online questionnaire.
- 48. On or about February 13, 2003, FEDEX delivered 90 pills of Bontril, a controlled prescription drug, from Rx Network of Florida, 5400 S University Dr., Ste. 107, Davie, Florida, that had been ordered by DEA agents in Miami, Florida, on or about February 13, 2003, from eprescribe.com by completing an online questionnaire. The instructions on the website stated that an adult signature would be required for delivery; however, the drugs were shipped to a Mailboxes Etc. and signed for by an employee at the store.
- 49. On or about November 12, 2003, a FEDEX employee received an e-mail in which she was "advised Rx Network license was suspended for selling illegal prescriptions thru the internet I forward email to [the Sales] A/E advised cust has to increase weekly pmt to 150,000 to ensure shipping privileges."
- 50. On or about November 25, 2003, FEDEX delivered 30 pills of Ambien, a controlled prescription drug, from C&V Pharmacy, 1803 SW 8th Street, Miami, Florida, that had been ordered by FDA agents in Miami, Florida, on or about November 21, 2003, from medpharmacy.com by filling out an online questionnaire.
- 51. On or about March 4, 2004, FEDEX delivered 10 pills of Cialis, a prescription drug, from United Mail, 800 E Hallandale Bch Blvd #18, Hallandale, Florida, that had been ordered by the FSMB on or about March 3, 2004, from completerxonline.com by filling out an online questionnaire.
- 52. On or about March 31, 2004, FEDEX Credit analysts sent a list of FEDEX's online pharmacy accounts to the Managing Director and Senior Manager of Revenue Operations that included over 20 accounts associated with the Chhabra-Smoley Organization.
- 53. In or about September of 2004, FEDEX's Credit analysts worked with FEDEX's Sales employees to obtain financial security for accounts used by the Chhabra-Smoley Organization pursuant to FEDEX's Online Pharmacy Credit Policy.
 - 54. In or about April of 2007, accounts associated with the Chhabra-Smoley Organization

were assigned to the catchall classification by FEDEX's Field Sales employees, pursuant to the Online Pharmacy Catchall Policy that had been approved by FEDEX's Field Sales Vice Presidents.

- On or about July 26, 2007, FEDEX delivered 30 pills of Phentermine, a controlled 55. prescription drug, from United Mail Pharmacy, 800 Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale Beach, Florida, that had been ordered by a customer located in Napa, California, on or about July 25, 2007, from fastplanetrx.com by completing an online questionnaire.
- In or about October of 2007, FEDEX's Sales analysts reviewed the placement of 56. accounts associated with the Chhabra-Smoley Organization in catchall and obtained the approval of the Senior Vice President of Field Sales to maintain these "high value" accounts in the catchall classification pursuant to the Online Pharmacy Catchall Policy.
- In or about January of 2008, a FEDEX contractor sent to a FEDEX Security manager a 57. list of packages containing "Red Flag Pharmaceuticals" that had been identified for destruction. The list included a package containing Phentermine, a controlled prescription drug, that had been shipped by FEDEX for United Mail LLC, a fulfillment pharmacy used by the Chhabra-Smoley Organization.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

COUNT TWELVE: (21 U.S.C. § 846 – Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances)

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Beginning at a time unknown to the grand jury, but no later than September of 2002, and 59. ending on or about May 12, 2010, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

FEDEX CORPORATION:

Paragraphs 1 through 18 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.

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FEDEX EXPRESS, INC.; and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.,

together with Creative Pharmacy Services (doing business as Superior Drugs), Wayne White, Anthony Spence, Christopher Napoli, Sanford Cohen, Orlando Birbragher, Marshall Kanner, David Glass, Michael Bezonsky, Claude Covino, Genetechnica, Physicians Online Network, The Spence Group, Pharmacom, Carmel Management, SaveOn Rx, SafescriptsOnline, Affpower, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, conspired to distribute, and to possess with intent to distribute outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose one or more controlled

substances, knowing and intending that the distribution and possession with intent to distribute was outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose, which offense involved substances containing (a) Phendimetrazine, a Schedule III controlled substance; (b) Phentermine, a Schedule IV controlled substance; (c) Butalbital, a Schedule III controlled substance, and (d) Ambien, a Schedule IV controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(D), and (b)(2) (before April 13, 2009), and in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(E)(i), (b)(2), (h)(1), and (h)(4) (after April 13, 2009), all of which conduct was in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

It was part of the conspiracy that:

A. Operation of Superior Drugs

- 60. Unindicted co-conspirator Wayne White ("White") was the chief pharmacist at Creative Pharmacy Services, doing business as Superior Drugs ("Superior"). White operated Superior as a fulfillment pharmacy that illegally distributed controlled substances without valid prescriptions directly to consumers who had ordered them from Internet pharmacies owned and operated by unindicted co-conspirators Anthony Spence, Christopher Napoli, Sanford Cohen, Orlando Birbragher, Marshall Kanner, David Glass, Michael Bezonsky, and others known and unknown to the grand jury.
- 61. The Internet pharmacies for which Superior filled orders for controlled substances, including discreetonlinemeds.com, pricebustersrx.com, safescriptsonline.com, safetrustprocessing.com, rx-max.com, integrarx.com, medscriptsmd.com, dietpillscheap.com, and buymeds.com, offered for sale controlled substances in Schedules III and IV, by means of the Internet, to customers who were only required to complete an online questionnaire and were not examined or diagnosed by the physicians who issued the prescriptions in connection with their orders.
- 62. The Internet pharmacies for which Superior filled orders for controlled substances based on invalid prescriptions partnered with, recruited, and hired throughout the United States and Puerto Rico physicians to review the customers' online questionnaires and to issue invalid prescriptions for controlled substances based solely upon the customers' responses.
 - 63. To meet the high demand for illegally obtained controlled substances, the Internet

pharmacies for which Superior filled orders for controlled substances based on invalid prescriptions partnered with, recruited, and hired other fulfillment pharmacies throughout the United States, including Gem Pharmacy, Universal Pharmacy, Union Pharmacy, Waterview Pharmacy, United Care Pharmacy, Kwic Fill, and SaveOn Rx, among others, to fill invalid prescriptions for controlled substances and to ship them to customers in the Northern District of California and elsewhere in the United States.

- 64. The Internet pharmacies for which Superior filled orders for controlled substances based on invalid prescriptions hired employees to call, respond to calls, and send e-mails to existing and prospective customers in the Northern District of California and elsewhere in the United States to solicit them to order controlled substances or to refill invalid prescriptions for controlled substances.
- B. <u>FEDEX's Shipment of Illegal Drugs for Superior</u>
- 65. FEDEX employees, including those (a) who negotiated and entered into the written agreements with Superior and its related Internet and fulfillment pharmacies on behalf of FEDEX, (b) who managed these accounts for FEDEX, and (c) who maintained the business relationship between FEDEX and Superior and its related Internet and fulfillment pharmacies, including credit and payment terms, knew that Superior and its related Internet and fulfillment pharmacies were distributing controlled substances based on prescriptions issued by doctors after only reviewing customers' responses to online questionnaires.
- 66. Unindicted co-conspirators Wayne White, Anthony Spence, Christopher Napoli, Sanford Cohen, Orlando Birbragher, Marshall Kanner, David Glass, Michael Bezonsky, Claude Covino, and others known and unknown to the grand jury and their employees and associates entered into agreements with FEDEX in which FEDEX agreed to ship packages for Superior and the Internet pharmacies for which Superior filled orders for controlled substances based on invalid prescriptions. As part of these agreements, FEDEX opened over 50 accounts for Superior and the Internet pharmacies for which Superior filled orders for controlled substances based on invalid prescriptions. Superior and its related Internet and fulfillment pharmacies used these FEDEX accounts to illegally distribute controlled substances into the Northern District of California and elsewhere in the United States.
- 67. FEDEX's employees communicated on a regular basis with Wayne White, Anthony Spence, Sanford Cohen, Orlando Birbragher, Marshall Kanner, Claude Covino, David Glass, Michael

Bezonsky, and other employees of Superior and its related Internet and fulfillment pharmacies in writing, by telephone, and in person regarding, among other things, business trends, volume, and shipping and logistics needs.

- 68. FEDEX employees visited the premises of Superior. These employees observed Superior's operations, including the filling of orders for controlled substances.
- 69. FEDEX employees observed packages from Superior containing pill bottles filled with controlled substances; FEDEX employees assisted with preparing these packages for shipment and subsequently distributed these packages for Superior and its related Internet and fulfillment pharmacies in the Northern District of California and throughout the United States.
- 70. FEDEX employees and their contractors communicated with employees of Superior and its related Internet and fulfillment pharmacies on a regular basis regarding lost, stolen, or delayed FEDEX shipments of controlled substances.
- 71. FEDEX employees knew that the purpose of Superior was to provide controlled substances to consumers without the need for a face-to-face meeting with, or physical examination or laboratory tests by, a physician. FEDEX employees knew that this practice violated the CSA, FDCA, and numerous state laws. FEDEX employees further knew that the practice of prescribing medication based solely on a physician's review of an online questionnaire, without a physical examination, laboratory tests, diagnosis, or face-to-face meeting was not in accordance with the usual course of medical and pharmacy practice according to the positions of the AMA, FSMB, NABP, and numerous state laws. FEDEX employees further knew that Superior distributed controlled substances to customers who had no legitimate medical need for them.
- 72. FEDEX departed from its usual business practices to participate in and facilitate Superior's unlawful sale of controlled substances. According to FEDEX's Service Guide and Tariff, as well as the understanding of its employees, FEDEX did not ship contraband, including illegal drugs, in the usual course of business. FEDEX also deviated from its usual course of business by applying its Online Pharmacy Credit Policy to Superior and its related online and fulfillment pharmacies. FEDEX further deviated from its usual course of business by assigning shipping accounts associated with

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Superior to the catchall classification for purposes of determining compensation for its sales executives pursuant to FEDEX's Online Pharmacy Catchall Policy.

- 73. FEDEX employees knew that Superior and online and fulfillment pharmacies affiliated with Superior were closed down by state and federal law enforcement agencies, including the FDA and DEA, and that their owners, operators, pharmacists, and doctors were indicted, arrested, and convicted of violating the CSA, including:
 - In June of 2004, a FEDEX Sales manager sent an e-mail regarding Superior a. stating, "they were shut down for a few days by the DEA and the company they were fulfilling for moved the business to [another fulfillment pharmacy]." The fulfillment pharmacy to which the business was moved when Superior was shut down was also a FEDEX customer.
 - b. In March of 2005, the account executive for Superior submitted a request for an adjustment to his sales goals because Superior represented a "significant revenue loss" when "FDA raided their property. No longer ship same volume."
 - In June of 2004, FEDEX's Senior Manager of Credit learned that the online c. pharmacy American Medical Services, which had been using Superior to ship its drugs, had been closed down by the FDA and DEA, but was now operating as Dynamic Health Solutions.
 - d. In June of 2006, a district sales manager and credit analyst learned that SaveOn Rx owner Claude Covino had stopped shipping drugs from SaveOn Rx because he was under investigation by the DEA. The manager and analyst determined that Covino was using other fulfillment pharmacies, including Superior Drugs, to continue to ship controlled substances for Internet pharmacies while avoiding detection by the DEA.
- 74. After April 13, 2009, FEDEX continued to distribute controlled substances for Superior Drugs that had been obtained by means of the Internet, despite the fact that neither Superior Drugs, nor any of the websites that referred orders to Superior Drugs, had obtained a modified DEA registration, despite the fact that the websites did not display any of the statements required by 21 U.S.C. § 831, and

despite the fact that prescriptions were issued by doctors employed by the online pharmacies after either review of an online questionnaire or after reviewing a report of a physical examination conducted by a physician who was not unavailable at the time the prescription was issued and who had not requested that the doctor employed by the online pharmacy serve as a covering physician.

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

COUNTS THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN: (21 U.S.C. § 841 – Distribution of Controlled Substances)

- 75. Paragraphs 1 through 18 and 60 through 74 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.
- 76. On or about the dates listed below, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

FEDEX CORPORATION; FEDEX EXPRESS, INC.; and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.,

did possess with intent to distribute and distribute outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose controlled substances knowing and intending that the distribution and possession with intent to distribute was outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose, which offense involved substances containing those listed below:

COUNT	DATE	TRACKING NUMBER	CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
13	2/7/2008	960103326342	Phentermine
14	5/27/2008	798448652979	Phentermine

Each in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(2).

COUNT FIFTEEN: (18 U.S.C. § 371 – Conspiracy to Distribute Misbranded Drugs in Interstate Commerce)

- 77. Paragraphs 1 through 18 and 60 through 74 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.
- 78. Beginning at a time unknown to the grand jury, but no later than September of 2002, and ending on or about May 12, 2010, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendants,

FEDEX CORPORATION; FEDEX EXPRESS, INC.; and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.,

together with Creative Pharmacy Services (doing business as Superior Drugs), Wayne White, Anthony Spence, Christopher Napoli, Sanford Cohen, Orlando Birbragher, Marshall Kanner, David Glass, Michael Bezonsky, Claude Covino, Genetechnica, Physicians Online Network, The Spence Group, Pharmacom, Carmel Management, SaveOn Rx, SafescriptsOnline, Affpower, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, conspired to dispense and distribute prescription drugs, including the prescription drugs identified in paragraphs 10 and 18, to consumers in various locations throughout the United States, including the Northern District of California, without valid prescriptions from licensed practitioners, which caused the drugs to be misbranded while held for sale after their shipment in interstate commerce, and did so with the intent to defraud and mislead as to a material matter, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 331(k), 333(a)(1), (a)(2), and 353(b), all of which conduct was in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

It was part of the conspiracy that:

- 79. Paragraphs 1 through 18 and 60 through 74 are realleged and reincorporated herein by reference.
- 80. Each and every aspect of the conduct alleged in paragraphs 60 through 74 as the manner and means of the conspiracy involving controlled prescription drugs also involved non-controlled prescription drugs.
 - 81. The prescription drugs were distributed with the intent to defraud and mislead in that:
 - a. Superior and its related online and fulfillment pharmacies falsely and fraudulently

- represented to consumers and government agencies that physicians had written valid prescriptions for the drugs they were distributing.
- b. The online pharmacies falsely and fraudulently represented to consumers and government agencies that no prescription was required to obtain the controlled and non-controlled prescription drugs advertised on their websites and that the "prescription" issued by a doctor employed by the online pharmacy based solely on his or her review of the responses to an online questionnaire was valid and in accordance with federal and state law.
- c. Superior and its associated fulfillment pharmacies and pharmacists falsely and fraudulently represented to consumers and government agencies that the prescription drugs were dispensed pursuant to valid prescriptions after review by a pharmacist in accordance with federal and state law.
- d. The Internet pharmacies falsely and fraudulently represented to customers who sought to obtain prescription drugs, but who lacked prescriptions from their personal physicians, and to government agencies, that the websites were a legitimate, lawful, safe, and responsible source for these drugs.

Overt Acts

- 82. On or about August 5, 2002, FEDEX delivered 30 pills of Phentermine, a controlled prescription drug, from Superior that had been ordered by FDA agents in Miami, Florida, on or about June 18, 2002, from medscriptsmd.com by completing an online questionnaire.
- 83. On or about April 8, 2003, FEDEX delivered 30 pills of Bontril, a controlled prescription drug, from Superior that had been ordered by DEA agents in Seattle, Washington, on or about April 4, 2003, from integrarx.com by completing an online questionnaire.
- 84. On or about May 10, 2004, employees in FEDEX's Credit Department prepared a list of FEDEX's online pharmacy customers for FEDEX EXPRESS's Chief Financial Officer. Accounts used by Superior were included on this list.
- 85. In or about September of 2004, employees in FEDEX's Credit Department worked with employees in FEDEX's Sales Department to obtain financial security for accounts used by Superior

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pursuant to FEDEX's Online Pharmacy Credit Policy.

- 86. On or about September 26, 2005, FEDEX delivered 10 pills of Cialis, a prescription drug, from Superior that had been ordered by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) on or about September 21, 2005, from order-viagra-online.net by completing an online questionnaire.
- 87. On or about February 27, 2006, FEDEX delivered 60 pills of Phentermine, a controlled prescription drug, from Kwic Fill, Inc. to fill an order placed by DEA agents in San Jose, California, on or about February 24, 2006, for 30 pills of Phentermine from safescriptsonline.com by completing an online questionnaire. FEDEX billed the shipping charges to the account for Superior Drugs.
- 88. In or about May of 2007, accounts used by Superior were assigned to the catchall classification pursuant to FEDEX's Online Pharmacy Sales Catchall Policy.
- 89. On or about May 30, 2008, FEDEX shipped Phentermine, a controlled prescription drug, from Superior to San Mateo, California, in response to an order placed by a customer on or about May 27, 2008 from the RxSource Network by completing an online questionnaire.
- 90. On or about August 7, 2009, FEDEX delivered 30 pills of Phentermine, a controlled prescription drug, from Superior that had been ordered by DEA agents in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on or about June 1, 2009, from discreetonlinemeds.com by completing an online questionnaire and submitting a fictitious report of physical examination that had been created by the agents without the input of a doctor.
- 91. On or about November 2, 2009, FEDEX delivered 90 pills of Butalbital, a controlled prescription drug, from Superior that had been ordered by FDA agents in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on or about October 26, 2009, from discreetonlinemeds.com by completing an online questionnaire.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

1	1 SENTENCING ALLEGATION	SENTENCING ALLEGATION				
2	96. With respect to the charges in this Indictment, for purposes of determining the alternative					
3	11	maximum fine pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3571(d), the defendants,				
4 5	FEDEX CORPORATION, FEDEX EXPRESS, INC., at	FEDEX CORPORATION, FEDEX EXPRESS, INC., and FEDEX CORPORATE SERVICES, INC.,				
6	- 22 211 COLU OLUTTE BEKVICE					
7	II.	and then coconspirators derived gross gains of at least \$820,000,000.				
8	9 DATED, 1-1 17 2014	UE BILL.				
9	ii ii					
10 11	10 FORE	ncy J. Reterson PERSON				
12	12 MELINDA HAAG					
13	United States Attorney					
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15	15 Chief, Criminal Division					
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United States District Court Northern District of California

CRIMINAL COVER SHEET P 2: 14

Instructions: Effective January 3, 2012, this Criminal Cover Sheet must be completed and Submitted, along with the Defendant Information Form, for each new criminal case.

Case Name: USA v. FEDEX CORP., FE	DEX EXPRESS, FEDEX SVCS.	Case Number: 380
Total Number of Defendants:	2-7 8 or more	Is This Case Under Seal? Yes No
Does this case involve ONLY ch	No	
Venue (Per Crim. L.R. 18-1): SF OAK	SJ EUR MON	
Is any defendant charged with a	No V	Assigned AUSA (Lead Attorney): Kirstin M. Ault
Is this a RICO Act gang case? Yes	No	Date Submitted: 7/17/2014
Comments:		

Print

Clear Form